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PP RUEHAG RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHLH RUEHPW RUEHROV
DE RUEHAH #1320 2751451
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 011451Z OCT 08
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1649
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 4354
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2166
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2031
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 2602
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2938
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 001320

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/01/2018
TAGS: PGOV SNAR SOCI KCRM KISL TX
SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: KHITROVKA CASUALTY FIGURES

REF: A. ASHGABAT 1229
     ¶B. ASHGABAT 1238
     ¶C. ASHGABAT 1285

Classified By: Charge Sylvia Reed Curran for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Questions still surround the September 12-13 shoot-out
btween police/military and an armed gang (Ref A). One
question is the number of casualties that resulted from the
24-hour shoot-out. A Turkish embassy source shared with us
on September 30 a casualty list he had received from a source
inside the Ministry of National Security (MNB - successor to
the KGB). According to the MNB list, 38 people died as a
result of the shoot-out, including 15 officers (11 of whom
died at the scene) and 8 "terrorists." The other 15 are
presumably civilian casualties. We had earlier learned from
local hospital sources that a total of 50 people had been
wounded, some of whom died later.

¶2. (C) COMMENT: This incident has served as a wake-up call
for Turkmen authorities. During a State Security Council
meeting, President Berdimuhamedov upbraided police and
military structures for their incompetence during the
shoot-out (Ref B) and speakers addressed the need to fight
narcotraffickers during the final People's Council meeting
(Ref C). Given the human toll and the poor performance of
the police/military, it is no wonder that the government sees
being able to meet a future similar challenge as a priority.
END COMMENT.
CURRAN